TL7271

PAX CHRISTI

INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC MOVEMENT FOR PEACE
National President: Bishop Victor Guazzelli
Telephone: 0181-800 4612 Fax: 0181-802 3223
Christian Peace Education Centre, 9 Henry Road, London N4 2LH

Note to members of the Christian Consultation on East Timor

1st September 1997

Dear friends

I have been asked to offer some suggestions for discussion at the arms trade working group of the Consultation meeting in Portugal. I hope that these might provide the basis for some joint action in relation to arms trade with Indonesia. The discussions will no doubt be informed by the presentation offered by Eilie Ward on influencing EU Policies in East Timor.

Since the last meeting of the Consultation there has been a clear call to end arms sales to Indonesia from a key partner in East Timor, Bishop Belo. In June 1997, while in London Bishop Belo said: *" I appeal to the UK and to its allies, whose factories make a variety of weapons which are then sold for use on land, sea and in the air, to consider the dreadful consequences of the so-called defence industry; I beg you to restrict further the conditions under which such trade is permitted"*

At the same time we see business as usual in the international arms trade to Indonesia. For example:

- Germany is to supply U-206 military sub-marines to the Indonesian navy (Maubere June 1997)
- Russia is to sell 12 Sukhoi 171v helicopters, worth £20 million , to Indonesia (Times 6.8.97)
- The new British Government has failed to revoke licences for 16 Hawk aircraft and 50 armoured vehicles and new guidelines relating to the sale of arms vary little from those of the previous government.

Might members of the CCET consider setting up a working group to initiate the following actions (in addition to suggestions which may come from ETAN)

- Where appropriate, urge their own Conference of Bishops'/ Council of Churches to publicly support Bishop Belo's call to restrict arms sales to Indonesia, through a press-statement; letters to the press etc. **(Pax Christi British Section would be prepared to act as a clearing house for this - receiving letters-press statements/circulating)**

- Direct lobbying of MEP's through our national networks/members to call for support of an embargo of the supply of all military equipment to Indonesia and the withdrawal of future military export licences to Indonesia. (Could take the form of letter-writing/meetings with MEPs which could be coordinated to arrive/happen during the same week, say week of 12th November or 7th December. A broad based approach such as this would help to bring home the depth of concern and press-work could be built around it. Responses to be collected and monitored to evaluate, build on campaigning possibilities. **Pax Christi British section, hopefully in cooperation with the Campaign Against Arms Trade Christian Network, would be prepared to collect and monitor this work**)

- Sending a delegation to the European Parliament in November or December to urge implementation Item 7 of the European Parliament Resolution which demands that Members States of the Union halt all military assistance and arms sales to Indonesia. What has been done about this? Who is monitoring progress and compliance? What is being done with countries which fail to comply. (With these two suggestions I feel it would be important to keep stressing the overwhelming military/repressive context into which arms are pouring and to draw on evidence of the human rights advocacy group of the CCET. **(Pax Christi International have been approached to determine if this is something they might be prepared to coordinate. Still awaiting a response.)**

I realise that these dates (November and December) may been too soon but I do think it important to try to focus activities around events/anniversaries in order to stress the issue of violence against the people of East Timor and also as a hook for associated press work that might be undertaken. It also makes sense for us to cooperate with other partners, church and secular, wherever possible . For example, Justice and Peace structures; Campaign Against Arms Trade and European Arms Trade network / TAPOL and its work on arms trade. A review of responses to these three activities early in 1998, or whenever the CCET meets again to access the strengths and weakness of project and determine where to go next.

With every good wish

Pat Gaffney
General Secretary

8TH CHRISTIAN CONSULTATION ON EAST TIMOR, 13-14 September 1997
ANNOTATED AGENDA

Saturday 13

10:00 **Welcome, round of introductions and finalisation of agenda**
Chair: Pastor ~~J da Silveira~~ Salvador

10:30 **The situation in East Timor and international responses:**

Brief reports from the field
Eg. A Timorese on the situation on the ground; M Brett on human rights in ET;
C Budiardjo on Indonesia; reports from recent fieldtrips; Z da Costa on UN talks.
Brief reports on policy developments and campaigning in key countries
Eg. A Kohen on USA, S Scharfe on Canada, Dr Teixeira on IPJET,
M Schlicher on Germany, A de Magalhaes on his conferences, P Geraud on France.
* Reports and discussion chaired by Pastor J. da Silveira

11:45 Coffee

12:00 Presentation and discussion of draft CIIR paper on
"Understanding and influencing EU Policies on East Timor"
Presentation by Eilis Ward, Trinity College Dublin

1:00 Lunch

2:00 **Report on CCET advocacy options for 1997-98**, by Stephen Baranyi
Report on CCET institutional strengthening options, by Victor Scheffers
General discussion (to clarify key points)
Guidelines for working groups briefly outlined by S Baranyi

3:00 **Discussion of 1997-98 options in parallel working groups (WGs):**

I. Human rights advocacy
Facilitator: M Brett

II. Development assistance advocacy
Facilitator: S Alston

III. Advocacy on security cooperation (eg. arms sales)
Facilitator: C Budiardjo

IV. Advocacy on peace-making (eg. support for UN talks)
Facilitator: A Kohen

V. CCET institutional development
Facilitator: V Scheffers

5:30 End. **Social evening**

Sunday 14

9:45 Tea and welcome
Reports from WGs and plenary discussion to finalise 1997-98 plans:
Chair: H Coulby

10:00 WG I and discussion

10:45 WG II "

11:30 Coffee

11:45 WG III "

12:30 Lunch

1:30 **WG reports, continued**
Chair: Franz Pils

1:30 WG IV and discussion

2:15 WG V "

3:00 **Any other business.**

4:00 END

N.B. Some participants will have to prepare for meeting officials on Monday.